



Debt Repayment Scheme: Check the S\$150,000 Court Referral Route

Description

You cannot apply directly for the Debt Repayment Scheme.

It begins only after a bankruptcy application is filed and the High Court refers a case to the Official Assignee. Total liabilities must not exceed S\$150,000, and further eligibility and suitability tests apply.

Do not pay an agent to sign you up

MinLaw states that DRS cannot be applied for directly and that the Official Assignee has not appointed agents to file bankruptcy applications. Treat any guaranteed-placement claim as a warning sign and use the official Insolvency Office route. ([MinLaw Insolvency Office debtor guide](#))

The debtor guide requires liabilities not above S\$150,000, regular employment income, no bankruptcy or DRS in the previous five years, no recent court arrangement, and no sole-proprietor or partnership status. Passing these tests permits assessment; it does not guarantee suitability.

Situation	What changes
No bankruptcy application exists	DRS cannot be directly selected
Liabilities exceed S\$150,000	The published ceiling is not met
Regular income and all five eligibility tests are met	Prepare for suitability assessment if referred
Sole proprietor or partner	The published eligibility test is not met

Related: [see how revolving debt grows](#)

Prepare a full financial picture

The Official Assignee asks for financial affairs, income, expenditure, supporting documents and a proposed repayment plan. Hidden accounts, understated expenses or missing creditor records can undermine the assessment and plan. ([MinLaw DRS statistics](#))

The guide lists S\$350 preliminary administration and S\$250 suitability review before a plan begins, then annual administration fees and a 1.5% collection fee. Use the live fee table for the actual case and distinguish official fees from debt instalments.

Example: A debtor with S\$120,000 of liabilities and regular income passes the amount test, but a current sole proprietorship would fail one published eligibility criterion. Even a fully eligible person must still be assessed as suitable after court referral.

Understand when interest stops

The debtor guide says interest on creditors's filed claims stops on the day DRS starts. That is after suitability and required first payments, not when the person first asks about the scheme. Do not delay urgent debt advice based on an assumed interest freeze.

A proposed plan must survive rent, food, transport, dependants and irregular essential costs. Use verified bank and income records rather than an optimistic surplus that fails in the first quarter.

Related: [build a recovery file for another money problem](#)

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